

We must continue efforts that make it easier for child support collectors to do their job.

For kids' sake, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL GARSON

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend and congratulate Michael Garson for his outstanding community service in my district. Mr. Garson was recently honored by the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club, also in my district. Community action and service are critical to the betterment of our cities, and Mike certainly is an outstanding example of how people involved in such service can have positive impact on those around them.

In addition to serving as a Democratic State committeeman and as a Democratic leader of the 41st assembly district, Mike is a member of the New York State and Brooklyn Bar Associations, the International Legal Fraternity Phi Delta Phi, B'nai B'rith Sheepshead Lodge, Congregation Beth Shalom of Sheepshead Bay, and the Jewish War Veterans No. 335, Cohen-Eisenman Post. He also services with distinction on the board of directors of the Kings Bay YMHA-YWHA. He was honored in 1982 by the Kings County Young Democrats and is listed in Who's Who in the East. Mike lives in the Madison section of Brooklyn with his wife, Laurie, and his daughter, Francesca.

I thank Mike for his continued community service and wish him success in his life. I sincerely hope that we will continue to work together for many years to come.

HONORING SHERMAN SPEARS

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievement of one of my constituents, Mr. Sherman Spears. He will be honored on October 14, 1997 as a recipient of the Amendment Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention on behalf of the National Crime Prevention Council. Out of 140 nominations, Mr. Spears was selected along with eight extraordinary individuals who are fighting crime and building community.

Mr. Spears was shot at the age of 19 and fortunate to have survived. The incident, which left him a paraplegic, motivated him to dedicate his life to doing what he can to help at-risk young people make choices to keep themselves and others alive, and to teach them how to build safer communities. Since 1993, he has been the Coordinator of Teens on Target, a youth violence prevention program in my hometown of Oakland, CA. He began the Caught in the Crossfire hospital peer visitation program in 1994.

Mr. Spears used his experience and understanding to develop the Caught in the Crossfire program. This program provides adolescents, who are recovering from violent injuries

in the Highland hospital trauma center, with educational materials about violent crime to dissuade victims and their friends from retaliating against their attackers. Upon discharge, Mr. Spears contacts the patients to see if they have used the referrals given to them, such as joining a program to help them get their GED, changing friendship groups, or joining and attending a physical rehabilitation program.

Caught in the Crossfire provides visitation to all recovering adolescents who are referred by the Highlight hospital staff. This averages 50 visits per year. The average length of hospital stay of each patient is 2 to 3 days; Mr. Spears responds to the call for help within 24 hours.

Teens on Target approaches at-risk youth in an attempt to reform their perspectives and to help them understand the repercussions of violence. The program trains multiethnic urban youth to educate their peers about the causes of violence and how to prevent it at home, in their neighborhood, and in their city. Each year, 25 youth from two high schools in Oakland are trained by Mr. Spears to: First, provide peer violence prevention education at schools, conferences and community events; second, educate professionals on the impact of violence on youth and strategies for prevention that will work; third, provide an informed voice to the media about how youth can be leaders in preventing violence; fourth, provide positive role models for youth; and fifth, provoke policymakers to take action to prevent violence. The youth, at risk for dropping out of school themselves, are referred to Teens on Target by probation officers, principals, counselors, and teachers. They provide four interactive violence prevention workshops to approximately 2,000 youth per year addressing the issues of gun violence, street and gang violence, alcohol and drug violence, and family violence. Over 5,000 youth have received this training since Mr. Spears has coordinated the project.

I would like to thank the National Crime Prevention Council and Ameritech for their commitment in helping individuals fight crime and build community and for recognizing and honoring the work of Mr. Spears and others.

Sherman Spears did not let his experience with violence become an excuse for defeat. He has not allowed the physical difficulties resulting from that incident to keep him from making a contribution to his community. Instead, he has used his unique insight to create programs to address crime throughout Oakland. We, in Oakland, are fortunate and proud to have Mr. Spears working on the front lines, to help break the vicious cycle of violence. Thank you so much for your commitment and work on our behalf. I also ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sherman Spears and hard-working individuals like him who make a difference in their communities.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce an important initiative for rural America. Recently, rural areas

have been faced with rising health care costs, and providing medical services has become a financial burden on local government. As a result, rescue and EMS squads have had to forgo needed improvements, construction, and equipment. When a loved one requires emergency services, ambulances must roll, equipment must work and facilities must be in place. These organizations often make the difference between life and death in an emergency. We cannot risk one life because of a lack of sufficient funds for these organizations.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will seek to correct this problem. The Emergency Medical Services Enhancement [EMS] Act will allow emergency organizations to issue tax-exempt bonds to raise funds for the purchase of equipment and for the construction and improvement of facilities. Tax-exempt bonds are used to build schools, bridges, and other public facilities. Volunteer fire departments have issued these bonds to purchase equipment and facilities. It is only right that we give similar consideration to those volunteer organizations that provide life saving emergency services to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will have an immediate impact on volunteer emergency organizations in rural areas across this country. In Harnett County, NC, my home county, the town of Dunn is building a new EMS facility as a result of damage to the previous station from Hurricane Fran last year. The Dunn EMS would have saved half a million dollars if it could have issued tax-exempt bonds. In Franklin County, the Franklinton EMS has been co-located with the fire department since its headquarters were destroyed by Fran last year. This bill will help them rebuild and provide the quality services the people of Franklin County deserve. This bill will save lives in rural counties throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, this bill builds on the work of my friend and a former Member of this body, Martin Lancaster. He laid the foundation for this effort by introducing this bill when he was in the House a few years ago. I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this bill that will fulfill a critical need in our rural communities.

SOMERSET AMVETS LOUIS A. COLON POST #72 FIFTIETH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to congratulate the Somerset AMVETS Louis A. Colon Post #72 on their 50 anniversary. The Somerset AMVETS have been a source of community pride and public service since their inception in 1947.

For the past 50 years the Somerset AMVETS have worked tirelessly to promote the values of those who have served in the U.S. military. They have sponsored numerous youth athletic teams, partnered with Somerset South school in providing athletic and academic mentoring, provided scholarships to area youths attending college, worked with the VA voluntary services and for 50 consecutive years sponsored Boy Scout troop #2. This is just a sampling of the charitable and community service work the Somerset AMVETS have provided in the past 50 years.